

**GASTRO-INTESTINAL OBSTRUCTION.** By M. C. Canter, M.D., and R. P. Reynolds, M.D. (Pp. xii + 566; figs. 415. 144s.) London: Baillière, Tindall & Cox, 1958.

THIS work covers every conceivable aspect of obstruction in the gastro-intestinal tract from the œsophagus to the anal canal in a truly encyclopædic manner. The book contains a tremendous amount of information and approximately 1,700 references in the bibliography. It is refreshing here to note that the authors include a large number of British references and do not limit themselves solely to the trans-atlantic literature.

There are some good radiographs illustrating the radiological diagnosis of different types of intestinal obstruction and there is an excellent chapter on the use of all forms of intubation with stress on the techniques of passage of the long intestinal tube, which appears to be a good deal more popular in America than it is in this country.

The chief criticism of this monograph is that the authors' determination that no aspect of obstruction, however minute, should escape our notice has led to the inclusion of too much material, sometimes irrelevant. Thus in two consecutive chapters the operation of appendicostomy is mentioned, only to be condemned. In many places there is repetition and throughout there tends to be a lack of emphasis.

These are small criticisms and this book can certainly be accepted as an excellent work of reference.

T. K.

**ANTISERA, TOXOIDS, VACCINES AND TUBERCULIN IN PROPHYLAXIS AND TREATMENT.** By H. J. Parish, M.D., F.R.C.P.E., D.P.H. Fourth Edition. (Pp. x + 255; illustrated. 30s.) Edinburgh and London: E. & S. Livingstone, 1958.

THIS book compresses into small compass both the theory and practice not only of prophylactic and therapeutic immunisation but also of antiserum therapy. The preparation, optimal conditions of storage, indications, dosage and recommended intervals, together with the Ministry of Health regulations governing the administration, are clearly expressed. Where more than one product is available the preparation of choice is given together with the reasons therefor. The possible dangers inherent in the use of attenuated vaccines or of biological products containing allergenic proteins is not omitted.

The general format remains the same as in previous editions, but since the last edition some chapters have been shortened and others expanded. The most noteworthy new addition is an up-to-date chapter on poliomyelitis vaccine.

There is much need of such a reliable, well-informed and readable book on this subject in medicine today. The author is to be congratulated on this new edition of his book which has long been an indispensable aid to the family doctor and a "must" for both the Medical Officer of Health and the hospital pathologist.

M. G. N.

**RESPIRATORY DISEASE AND THE GENERAL PRACTITIONER.** By C. H. C. Toussaint, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H. (Pp. 27.) London: National Association for Prevention of Tuberculosis, 1958.

THIS pamphlet of twenty-seven pages is individual in its approach and the author gives the points of importance that he has found in long experience in the treatment of tuberculosis. He has also branched off into bronchitis and carcinoma of the bronchus and uses illustrations to present his crusade against the evils of tobacco.

A. P. G.

**MODERN DRUG TREATMENT IN TUBERCULOSIS.** By J. D. Ross, M.B., Ch.B., F.R.C.P.E. (Pp. 42. 5s.) London: National Association for Prevention of Tuberculosis, 1958.

THIS pamphlet of forty-two pages can be recommended with confidence to the physician or practitioner who may have to treat cases of tuberculosis. This booklet brings one up to date on modern chemotherapy and summarizes the present approach to the drug treatment of tuberculosis. The difficulties and the reasons for failure in chemotherapy are well and concisely presented. One can, with little labour, find information which would otherwise require the reading of numerous articles.

A. P. G.